

Message Text

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ACTION MCE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SOE-02 CIAE-00 SP-02 PM-05
INR-10 NSAE-00 DOE-11 DODE-00 /043 W
-----002756 231943Z /47

P R 231829Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6151
INFO AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY ROME
CINC EUR VAHINGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 03392

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, ASEC, GW
SUBJECT: NDPC SECURITY SURVEYS

REFS: A) STATE 41813 DTG 162349Z FEB 78
B) STATE 023510 DTG 280337Z JAN 78
C) BONN 809 DTG 191240Z JAN 78
D) STATE 310280 DTG 301919Z DEC 77

BEGIN SUMMARY: BECAUSE OF SENSITIVITIES RESULTING FROM
THE LUTZE SPY CASE, THE FRG IS VERY COOL TO OUR PROPOSAL
FOR AN NDPC SECURITY SURVEY IN APRIL AND HAS NOT YET
REACHED A DECISION ON THE MATTER. WE SHALL CONTINUE TO
WORK FOR GERMAN ACCEPTANCE OF THE APRIL 3-7 TIME FRAME.
END SUMMARY.

1. SHORTLY AFTER THE EMBASSY RECEIVED REF B, WE
APPROACHED THE DEFENSE MINISTRY (MILITARY INTELLIGENCE
OFFICE, HEADED BY ADMIRAL ARENDT) AND PROPOSED A
SURVEY IN THE APRIL 3 THROUGH 7 TIME FRAME. THE
DEFENSE MINISTRY EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE
PROPOSED TIMING BECAUSE OF A "HEAVY WORKLOAD ON OTHER
SECURITY MATTERS" (READ LUTZE ESPIONAGE CASE; SEE REF
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C). IT SAID IT WAS NOT THE MINISTRY RESPONSIBLE FOR
A DECISION ON THE MATTER AND SUGGESTED THAT WE APPROACH
THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, WHICH WE DID.

2. IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WE PRESENTED THE PROPOSAL
TO THE ACTING HEAD OF THE OFFICE OF NATO AFFAIRS, DR.
HOFFSTETTER. ALTHOUGH HE SEEMED PERSONALLY TO ACCEPT

THE EMBASSY'S ASSURANCES THAT THE SURVEY WAS NOT CONNECTED WITH THE LUTZE SPY CASE, HE CAUTIONED THAT THERE COULD BE THOSE IN THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT WHO WOULD ASSUME SUCH A CONNECTION. THEY MIGHT WONDER WHY IT WAS SUDDENLY A MATTER OF URGENCY TO HAVE A SURVEY WHICH WAS LAST HELD NINE YEARS AGO.

3. WE TOLD HOFFSTETTER THAT WE CONSIDERED IT IMPORTANT THAT THE SURVEY BE CONDUCTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF CURRENT AND PROPOSED CO-PRODUCTION AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. WE SAID THE EMBASSY WOULD BE MOST APPRECIATIVE IF THE FRG COULD RECEIVE THE U.S. SURVEY TEAM DURING THE PROPOSED TIME FRAME IN APRIL.

4. ON FEBRUARY 23, HOFFSTETTER AND HIS SUPERVISOR, DR. DANNENBRING, TOLD THE EMBASSY THEY FELT THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR A DECISION ON THE SURVEY RESTED WITH THE DEFENSE MINISTRY, AND THAT THEY HAD SO INFORMED THE LATTER. THEY HAD TAKEN THIS POSITION BECAUSE THEY DID NOT WISH THE ISSUE TO BECOME "POLITICIZED" AND BECAUSE THEY UNDERSTOOD THAT THERE WAS AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GERMAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ON THE HOLDING OF UCH PERIODIC SECURITY SURVEYS.

5. EMBOFF IMMEDIATELY CONTACTED THE DEFENSE MINISTRY AGAIN (COL. MUECHEBERG OF ADMIRAL ARENDT'S OFFICE).
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MUECHEBERG CONCEDED THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR A DECISION WAS PROBABLY THE DEFENSE MINISTRY'S AFTER ALL. HOWEVER, HE CAUTIONED THAT, BEFORE HIS MINISTRY COULD REACH A DECISION, IT WOULD HAVE TO OBTAIN THE VIEWS OF THE INTERIOR MINISTRY (RESPONSIBLE FOR SECURITY AFFAIRS IN GERMANY) AND THE ECONOMICS MINISTRY (BECAUSE OF THE PROPOSED VISITS TO DEFENSE CONTRACTORS). MUECHEBERG SAID THAT, IN HIS PERSONAL VIEW, THE SURVEY SHOULD BE POSTPONED CONSIDERABLY BEYOND THE APRIL TIME FRAME IN ORDER TO SEPARATE IT CLEARLY FROM "OTHER SECURITY ACTIVITIES", BY WHICH HE CLEARLY MEANT THOSE RELATED TO THE LUTZE CASE. HE SAID THAT AS SOON AS THERE WAS A FIRM DECISION ON THE MATTER HE WOULD LET US KNOW.

6. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF GERMAN SENSITIVITIES REGARDING A SURVEY AT THIS TIME AND THE LARGE AMOUNT OF BUCK PASSING WITHIN THE GERMAN BUREAUCRACY ON THIS ISSUE, IT IS BY NO MEANS CERTAIN THAT THE FRG WILL AGREE TO RECEIVE THE SURVEY TEAM IN THE PERIOD APRIL 3-7. HOWEVER, THE EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO WORK FOR GERMAN ACCEPTANCE OF THIS TIME FRAME, AND WE SHALL KEEP THE CONFIDENTIAL

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DEPARTMENT INFORMED OF THE RESULTS OF OUR EFFORTS.
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